

A Note from the CRP Department Head

Welcome to Focus XI. With this volume the CRP department celebrates the achievements of this award-winning departmental journal as it proudly embarks on a second decade of publication. We fully anticipate that FOCUS will consolidate and expand its impact on the planning profession and achieve the next level of its evolution. Our department is widely recognized for a curriculum that emphasizes physical planning, land use and environmental issues, and exposure to a rich array of hands-on, learn-by-doing, practical and applied experiences. It is fitting that FOCUS too has privileged this approach.

Thanks to Professor Vicente del Rio's editorial efforts, during the past eleven years the journal has matured and attracted more contributions from a wider set of practitioners, alumni, and faculty. And FOCUS has benefitted from the evolution in digital technology making the experiences represented in its pages graphically compelling and therefore more accessible. FOCUS has evolved from a basic black and white publication with local and regional distribution, to a journal that is graphically rich, full-color, and available internationally in print and digital formats. The California Chapter of the American Planning Association recognized the importance of FOCUS by granting it the 2006 Outstanding Planning Award in Journalism.

As the content has embraced state, national, and international topics, and with the shift in dissemination and reach, FOCUS's readership and sphere of influence expanded, and its articles have resonance. For instance, the history of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) was delineated and published for the first time in FOCUS 10: an insider's perspective and overview of an important regional planning agency whose jurisdiction covers an area that is one of the economic engines for the State of California. Offprints of the article "Mumbai Port and City: Planning for Symbiosis" (also from FOCUS 10) were provided to India's newly elected (May 2014) Central Government policy committee charged with planning the development of Mumbai port lands. Noting that the article was "well appreciated and timely," the committee recently completed a draft report and is wrestling with the management and financing issues pinpointed in the FOCUS article.

In the interest of making opportunities for experience in other countries a possibility for faculty and students, the CRP Department has continued to be engaged internationally. Professors Vicente del Rio and William Siembieda's book *Contemporary Urbanism in Brazil* was recently adapted into a very successful Portuguese edition for both Brazil and Portugal. Professor Siembieda's expertise in natural hazard mitigation and post-disaster recovery has had applied and scholarly impacts in New Zealand, Chile and Japan. Professor Hemalata Dandekar was invited to



a comparative policy-related conference on Ports and Cities in Hamburg, Germany, and Professor Adrienne Greve expanded her research at several venues in Japan during her yearlong sabbatical at Kyoto University. Professors Dandekar and del Rio presented papers at an international conference in Porto, Portugal and started planning for a monthlong study trip to London, Lisbon, and Barcelona in 2015. Adding to this international commitment, this past year CRP hosted Susan Mason, Assistant Professor at Boise State University, Idaho, in her post-doctoral studies, and Lorenza Pavesi, a doctoral student from the University of São Paulo, Brazil. Two graduate students spent the summer

in Chennai, South India, implementing strategies to improve health-augmenting practices in schools.

The CRP department is at a significant point of transition with Professor Paul Wack, a long-standing faculty member, now teaching only one course on professional practice, Professor David Conn embarking on an early retirement program to actively engage in research, and Professor Zeljka Howard's retirement (Summer 2014). Professor Howard's absence is of particular note as she has taught some 25 different courses since 1986, including her signature community-planning studio that embodies CRP commitment to service learning. She established the 410/411 studio sequence as the capstone learn-by-doing experience in BCRP's curriculum, and as a signature element of our sponsored studios. Professor Howard's studios have received no less than twelve American Planning Association (APA) awards, including three at the State level and two at the national level from the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). CRP's mix and culture is changing as new faculty join the ranks. Professor William Riggs has augmented our strengths in transportation, sustainability, pedestrian and bicycle planning, and GIS. We look forward to additional hires in urban design and joint appointments with other CAED departments in sustainability and visualization.

Our tradition of award winning student work continued this past year. Professors del Rio and Dandekar's third-year studio vision plan for the City of Milpitas won the California Chapter APA 2014 Academic Award of Merit and awards of excellence from APA's Central Coast and Northern divisions. This and other student driven efforts are described in these pages. We hope you enjoy reading this issue of FOCUS as a record of some of our significant achievements. Through FOCUS we welcome you to our world and invite you to contribute to this conversation in future volumes.

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